

PITZHANGER

MANOR & GALLERY

PITZHANGER MANOR & GALLERY TO OPEN ON 16 MARCH 2019 AFTER A MAJOR RESTORATION PROJECT, LAUNCHING WITH A SOLO EXHIBITION BY ANISH KAPOOR



Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, the Grade-I listed country home of visionary British architect Sir John Soane (1753-1837), reopens to the public on 16 March 2019 following a three-year, £12-million conservation and restoration project. The Regency Manor, built between 1800 and 1804 in then-rural Ealing, has been returned to Soane's original design - it is a rare and spectacular example of a building designed, built and lived in by Soane himself. The adjoining Gallery built in the 1930s, has also been upgraded and will stage three major exhibitions a year, featuring the work of contemporary artists, architects and designers, shining a new light on Soane's legacy.

The initiative to revitalise Pitzhanger was conceived by Ealing Council. Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery Trust was established in 2012 to work alongside the Council on the conservation project with the aim of establishing Pitzhanger as a destination for heritage and culture.

This remarkable restoration project, led by architects Jestico + Whiles with the support of heritage experts Julian Harrap Architects, has removed later architectural additions and extensions to reveal, for the first time in over 150 years, a restored Pitzhanger faithful to Soane's vision. Soane's building has been conserved and key structural and decorative elements of his design have been reinstated. The project has also reunited this unique building with its former parkland, the recently renovated Walpole Park. For the first time in its history, every part of the Manor will be open to the public, with the addition of Soane's Kitchen, a contemporary café-restaurant, built within Soane's walled kitchen garden.

Anish Kapoor will launch Pitzhanger Gallery's exhibitions programme. The exhibition features a series of sculptures that invite dialogue between the work, the architecture and the viewer. Kapoor's use of material and form echo Soane's complex use of mirrors and light to multiply and dissolve space. One of the most influential sculptors of his generation, Kapoor's invention of sculptural language has constantly challenged the way we view the world.

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Clare Gough, Director of Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery Trust said: *"We are delighted to reveal for the first time in over 150 years Pitzhanger as designed by Soane, bringing this building back to life to engage and inspire visitors. Anish Kapoor's exhibition will enable the public to look at Soane and his influence in a new light. We look forward to establishing Pitzhanger as an inspiring destination for heritage, culture and art."*

Councillor Julian Bell, Leader of Ealing Council said: *"Pitzhanger Manor is the crown jewel of Ealing's heritage. This ambitious restoration project is realising the building's full historical impact by returning it to Soane's original vision of a villa in a beautiful landscape. We are proud to have initiated and supported this transformational project, which is at the heart of plans to build on our fantastic cultural heritage and ensure Ealing is a great destination for tourists and visitors from near and far."*

Sir John Soane, still widely influential on architects and designers today, is celebrated for his idiosyncratic take on the Neoclassical style and his mastery of natural light. Pitzhanger Manor was purchased by Soane in 1800, he demolished most of the existing building and re-designed it to become his dream country estate where he could experiment with new design ideas and showcase his skills as an architect. With its stripped classical detail, canopy domed ceilings, radical decorative paint schemes and inventive use of space and light, Pitzhanger features many architectural elements that Soane adapted for his later buildings including Dulwich Picture Gallery and his city home in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

The conservation and restoration project has reinstated important structural elements of Soane's design, such as the conservatory demolished in 1901 and the dramatic central roof light which returns Pitzhanger to the silhouette Soane intended. The recreation of a colonnade connecting the Gallery and Manor provides full accessibility for all visitors. Soane's original intricate paint schemes, which were overpainted in the 1830s, have also been meticulously recreated throughout the Manor following detailed historic paint analysis by interior decoration specialists Hare & Humphreys. The dramatic marbling in the entrance hall and the hand-painted Chinese wallpaper in the Upper Drawing Room have revitalised Pitzhanger's interiors.

Soane was also an enthusiastic collector and educator. He designed Pitzhanger around his eclectic and growing collection of art and antiquities which served to inspire his students and guests. Now opening to the public, Pitzhanger will uphold Soane's commitment to inspiring and educating future generations through the arts. Alongside the temporary exhibitions, Pitzhanger offers an extensive programme of events, learning and outreach designed to engage the widest possible audience and nurture an understanding of the relevance of Soane's work today.

As well as a showcase of architectural design, Soane intended Pitzhanger to be a place for entertainment, where he could invite clients and influential friends to dinners and large garden parties or even to fish in the lake. This ethos of hospitality is continued at Pitzhanger with a new café-restaurant, Soane's Kitchen, designed by Jestico + Whiles and operated for

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Pitzhanger by Social Pantry, which sits within the original walled kitchen garden and makes use of vegetables and herbs grown there. Pitzhanger and its surrounding gardens are also available for private events and weddings throughout the year.

Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery Trust has been leading the fundraising campaign for the project, which has been generously supported by Ealing Council, the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund, Arts Council England, and donations from many other Trusts, Foundations, corporate partners and individuals. The Trust is now embarking on the final stages of the fundraising campaign to secure £500,000 to cover the remaining building works and ongoing maintenance costs.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery will open to the public on Saturday 16 March 2019.

For all **PRESS** enquiries, please contact Belinda Bowring at Rees & Co belinda@reesandco.com or call +44 (0)20 3137 8776

For all other enquiries, please contact pitzhanger@pitzhanger.org.uk

To be kept up to date with the latest news, sign-up to the Pitzhanger newsletter at www.pitzhanger.org.uk

Instagram: @pitzhanger Twitter: @pitzhanger
Facebook: Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery #pitzhanger

More information about the building project at Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery can be found in a series of short videos, available on [Youtube](#) and [Vimeo](#).

Listings Information

Address: Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, Walpole Park, Ealing, London, W5 5EQ
Nearest Station: Ealing Broadway (Central & District lines, plus Great Western Main Line from Paddington. Elizabeth line from 2019.)
Open: Tuesday to Sunday, plus Bank Holidays Tuesday – Friday and Sunday 10am – 4.30pm
Saturday 10am – 3pm

Anish Kapoor at Pitzhanger Gallery runs from 16 March – 18 August 2019.

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Tickets will allow access to Pitzhanger Manor and the exhibition. Information for ticket sales will be provided on Pitzhanger's website www.pitzhanger.org.uk and social media channels.

Full price £7, Concessions (incl. visitors with access needs and students) £4.50; Free entry for under 18s, Friends of Pitzhanger, and Ealing Residents (on Tuesdays and Sunday mornings).

ABOUT PITZHANGER MANOR & GALLERY TRUST

Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery Trust has taken ownership of Pitzhanger on a long-term lease from Ealing Council and is responsible for managing the Manor, Gallery, Soane's Kitchen and the surrounding gardens as they are opened to the public. The Trust's aim is to enhance Pitzhanger, creating a destination for art, education and architecture, offering learning and inspiration for all within an extensive outreach and events programme. Pitzhanger will offer visitors a chance to explore Soane's historic and influential Regency Manor, juxtaposed with a programme of inspirational contemporary art exhibitions. The Trust has been leading the fundraising campaign for the project and is now embarking on the final stages to secure £500,000 to cover the remaining building works and ongoing maintenance costs.

ABOUT SIR JOHN SOANE

Sir John Soane (1753-1837) is one of Britain's most visionary and influential architects. Soane began his career in 1768 as an apprentice to George Dance the Younger where he worked with Dance on an extension to the Georgian Pitzhanger Manor. Soane embarked on his Grand Tour in 1778, which had an enduring impact on all his subsequent work. He became Architect and Surveyor to the Bank of England in 1788. Soane bought Pitzhanger in 1800, demolished most of the existing manor house apart from the Dance Wing, and designed and built a new house sitting in 28 acres of redesigned parkland as his country estate. The legacy of Soane's idiosyncratic buildings, teachings and collections has influenced generations of artists, architects and designers.

ABOUT ANISH KAPOOR

Anish Kapoor (b. 1954 in Mumbai) has lived and worked in London since the early 1970s. One of the most influential sculptors of his generation, his invention of sculptural language and form has constantly challenged the way we view the world. Large-scale commissions include *Marsyas* (2002), for the Turbine Hall at Tate Modern, *Cloud Gate* (2004) in Chicago's Millennium Park and *Leviathan* at the Grand Palais as part of Monumenta (2011), and *Orbit* (2012) in the Queen Elizabeth Park, London. Recent solo exhibitions include Serralves Museum and Park, Porto, Portugal (2018); *Descension*, The Public Art Fund, Brooklyn Bridge Park, New York (2017); *Parque de la Memoria*, Buenos Aires (2017); Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome (2016); Museo Universitario Arte Contemporáneo, UNAM, Mexico City (2016); Château de Versailles, France (2015); Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin (2013).

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ABOUT JESTICO + WHILES

Jestico + Whiles is an award-winning architectural and interior design practice with offices in London and Prague. Founded in 1977, the practice has grown steadily building on its reputation for design quality and innovative solutions to challenging briefs. The practice has always been proud of the diversity in its workload, including heritage and conservation work. The practice worked on restoring London County Hall, a historic riverside building offering views across the River Thames to Parliament which has been refurbished as a conference venue inspired by the art deco era. Previous work in the cultural / heritage sector also includes the refurbishment and extension of The Foundling Museum, and Fortnum & Mason's famous store on Piccadilly. Other work ranges from schools to University departments; five-star boutique hotels and restaurants; master-planning of residential developments to high-end apartments; individual office fit-outs and corporate headquarters. The practice's reputation for excellence is well established both nationally and internationally, with recent projects completed and ongoing in the Gulf, India, Africa, Australia and throughout Europe. The practice is currently working on a number of high-profile projects including a five-star hotel for the new Edinburgh St James development and the Zuri Zanzibar hotel on the island of Zanzibar.

ABOUT JULIAN HARRAP ARCHITECTS LLP

Julian Harrap Architects LLP is a distinguished medium-sized practice offering a full range of specialist architectural services for the repair and restoration of historic buildings, estates and landscapes and for the design of extensions and new buildings in historic settings. Established in the early 1970s, the practice is well known for consistency of approach and meticulous attention to detail, receiving many awards for excellence in design, conservation and craftsmanship. A stable team of highly trained architects promote the philosophy of the practice and share an extensive body of experience. As architects for Sir John Soane's Museum since 1988, the practice has detailed knowledge of the work of Sir John Soane and took responsibility for the repair and restoration of Soane's Manor at Pitzhanger as part of the wider project led by Jestico + Whiles.

ABOUT EALING COUNCIL

Pitzhanger Manor is owned by Ealing Council and has been leased on a long-term basis to Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery Trust. Ealing Council took the decision in 2012 to invest in this major cultural destination in the borough. Funding was secured from the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund, Arts Council England, and other Trusts, Foundations, corporate partners and individuals.



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Charity Registration No.: 1152434 Company Registration No.: 08278049



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ABOUT THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk.

Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLottery.

ABOUT SOANE'S KITCHEN AND SOCIAL PANTRY

Soane's Kitchen is the café-restaurant at Pitzhanger located in Soane's original walled kitchen garden. Opened in July 2018, Soane's Kitchen celebrates Soane's ethos of entertainment and hospitality that was at the core of his intentions for Pitzhanger, serving seasonal and heartening dishes from brunch through to dinner. Soane's Kitchen is operated for Pitzhanger by Social Pantry, an independent catering company, which was founded by female director Alex Head in 2011. Social Pantry has locations across London and is regarded as one of London's most exciting go-to caterers for weddings, corporate events and press launches, serving fresh, seasonal and delicious food served with a creative style. Alex Head works closely with charities that naturally connect with the values of Social Pantry, offering personal mentoring, hospitality training and job opportunities to young offenders, assisting with their rehabilitation and equipping them with the skills they need to succeed. 10% of Social Pantry's

current workforce is made up of former offenders. Pitzhanger will be available to hire for weddings, and private and corporate events, with catering provided by Social Pantry.

For further information on Soane's Kitchen please contact Courtney Gillibrand on courtney@socialpantry.co.uk

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